

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment to Claim 14 is supported by the claim as originally filed and specification page 8, line 1. The same is true for amended Claims 15 and 16. New Claims 18-23 are supported by Claim 16. New Claim 24 is supported at specification page 12, line 11. New Claim 25 is supported at specification page 12, line 9. New Claims 26 and 27 are supported at specification page 8, lines 19-22. New Claims 28, 29, and 34 are supported at specification page 4, lines 22-27. New Claims 30, 31 and 35 are supported by the paragraph bridging specification pages 4-5. New Claims 32 and 33 are supported by Claim 14 and by specification page 1, lines 25-26, page 2, lines 9-20, page 3, lines 25-29, and the Examples and Comparative Examples. No new matter has been entered.

As noted by the above amendment to the claims, the present invention has been limited to a preferred embodiment described herein wherein component (B) is a dimer of a linear olefin compound having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms. As described throughout the specification, such dimers act as effective replacements for phthalic esters previously used in polyurethane compositions as plasticizers, which are now suspected of being endocrine-disrupting chemicals and thus currently disfavored. See, e.g., specification page 1, lines 19-24.

The rejection of Claims 14-17 as being anticipated by Heinze is traversed. Heinze relates to polyalphaolefin-extended polyurethane systems where the polyalphaolefins are limited to trimers, tetramers and pentamers of decene-1. See column 4, lines 18-31 of the reference:

The polyalphaolefins, as defined herein, are produced by polymerizing decene-1 to produce trimers, tetramers and pentamers. These are then hydrogenated to eliminate the olefin bond, thereby producing totally saturated hydrocarbons with the generalized formula C_nH_{2n+2} wherein n is predominantly 30, 40 and 50. The fluids are characterized by low viscosity and low volatility. They are non-polar and thus totally not compatible by themselves with the polar urethane

compounds. They can, however, be incorporated in systems containing materials with both polar and non-polar components on the same molecule. Commercial polyalphaolefins are available from Bray Oil Co. under the designation PAOL.

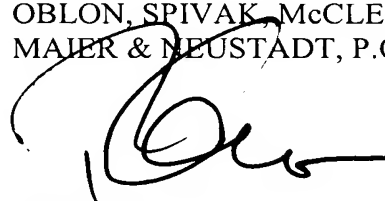
These trimers, tetramers and pentamers are, of course, not dimers, and differ substantially therefrom in their chemical structures, molecular weights, etc. Nothing in Heinze discloses or suggests Applicants' presently claimed compositions, or the fact that the presently claimed dimers can act in replacement for phthalic esters as effective plasticizers.

This last point is illustrated quite clearly by Heinze's examples, which specifically use, in addition to the disclosed polyalphaolefin, phthalates. See, e.g., column 6, line 21 and Example 2, at column 6, fourth entry from the top. In both of these cases a phthalate plasticizer is present. Note also Example 3 at column 7, line 34, where, again, a phthalate plasticizer is used. It is thus quite clear that Heinze did not recognize the possibility of avoiding the use of a phthalate plasticizer through the use of Applicants' presently claimed dimer.

Accordingly, and in view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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